August 1, 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

TOTS Update

We are getting ever closer to TOTS. August 18th will mark the kick-off of TOTS statewide training. Have you signed up?? If you have not, jump on TRAIN (ky.train.org) and find a TOTS training near you.

Here's a TOTS training registration note:

Please, please, please follow the registration instructions in their entirety. The TOTS training is set up as a conference in TRAIN. This is different than the way other trainings have been set up. A number of providers have contacted their TAT because they thought they completed the registration process when, in fact, they had not. If you notice that your registration is PENDING, you have not gone far enough. Be sure to click on the COMPLETE REGISTRATION box at the bottom of the page. When the system indicates that you are IN PROGRESS, you're good to go.

Technology-assisted Observation and Teaming Support system

CBIS/CIMS Updates

It is with great sadness that we bid a fond farewell this week to two long time CBIS staff. Brenda Curry-White has taken a new position with the University of Louisville and spent her last full-time day with us yesterday. Melissa Wilkerson has taken a new position outside the University of Louisville and will be ending her time with us today.

At the same time we are so pleased that both Brenda and Melissa have agreed to continue to assist the First Steps program on a part-time basis as we prepare to transition to TOTS. Their experience and dedication will be invaluable during this transition process.

Other CBIS/CIMS News:

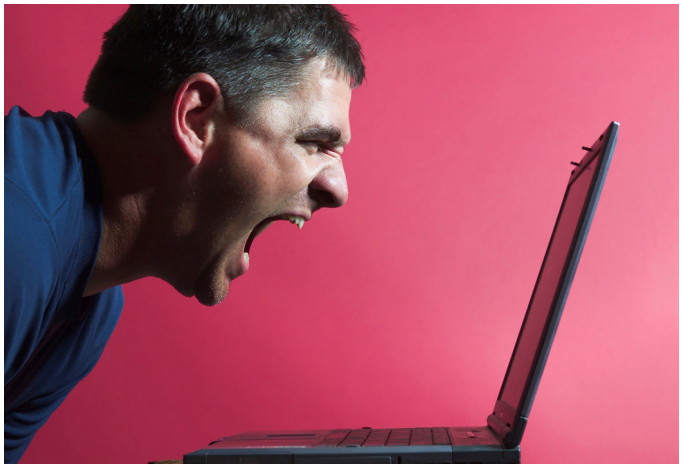
- Due to the staff shortages at CBIS, Central Office is helping out with customer service. Questions that were previously directed to CBIS can be directed to Central Office at 502/564-3756. An 800 number is in the works and should be available in the next week.
- If you enter your bills through web-billing on CIMS, your cut-off is 5:00 pm on August 5. NOTE, however, that you may only enter claims for services provided through August 4th.
- Some providers have expressed concern that they will not be paid due to the staffing issues at CBIS. Please be assured that Central Office and CBIS are making every effort to assure that provider payments continue uninterrupted. While this is no small feat, it is our foremost objective at this time.
- You still need to do service deletions on paper forms. You do not need to delete services individually if a child is being discharged from First Steps prior to age 3. Just enter the discharge form and services are automatically ended on the discharge date. All other deletions you can send to CBIS.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

CBIS/CIMS Updates (cont'd)

(Continued from Page 1)



- There is no form for amendments/corrections. You use the same form as for new plan services. For amendments and corrections, you can leave the backup PSC and PSC sections blank. If you are changing the PSC, you can enter that on the PSC line.
- Some providers have expressed concern because they are not able to bill for a service recently provided. It is important that providers understand that they cannot bill for anything that has not already been authorized. If the ISC or PSC has not submitted (or entered online) a summary form authorizing services, the provider will not be able to bill until they do. There is nothing that CBIS or Central Office can do in a situation like this. It will be necessary to follow-up directly with the ISC or PSC.

Using Research to Improve Outcomes for Young Children—Final Conference Report

Source: National Association for the Education of Young Children and Society for Research in Child Development—August 1, 2008

In September 2007, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) convened a conference of approximately 40 experts in the field of early childhood, child development and knowledge utilization at the Wingspread Conference in Racine, WI. The goal was to develop a set of recommendations about strengthening the link between early childhood research and practice in order to improve outcomes for young children, especially children living in vulnerable situations. The conference final report is now available at:

http://www.naeyc.org/resources/research/wingspread.asp.

Autism Speaks—100 Day Kit for Newly Diagnosed Families

Source: Autism Speaks—July 30, 2008

Autism Speaks has recently published a kit containing information and advice for families to use during the first 100 days following the diagnosis of autism. It contains a week by week plan, as well as suggestions and forms that families can use as they begin to find services for their child. For more information and to access the kit online, go to:

http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/100_day_kit.php .

AUTISM SPEAKS

August 8, 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

TOTS Update

This week we brought in a small group of providers for training on the TOTS system. The purpose of bringing in the providers was to gather valuable feedback from direct service providers regarding the usability of the system, ease of data entry and billing, and usefulness of reports and reporting capabilities.

The feedback we received was very positive. Providers felt that the system was very easy to navigate and generally user-friendly. In addition, providers are very excited about being able to access child and family information online and bill for services immediately following service provision/documentation.

One area of concern for providers was being able to fit their evaluation and/or assessment reports into the necessarily limited space available in TOTS.

In response to this concern, we wanted to assure providers that a number of items currently required to be included in the evaluation or assessment report will be pre-populated from other screens in TOTS (i.e. child identifying information, diagnosis, birth information). It will not be necessary for providers to duplicate this information in their narrative.

CBIS/CIMS Updates

Due to the staff shortages at CBIS, Central Office is helping out with customer service. Questions that were previously directed to CBIS can be directed to Central Office at 502/564-3756. An 800 number is in the works. We thought for sure we would have it by this week, but no such luck. We're hopeful it will be in place by next week—along with a dedicated e-mail box for questions and TA.

Please note some things that will help us get service authorized and providers paid:

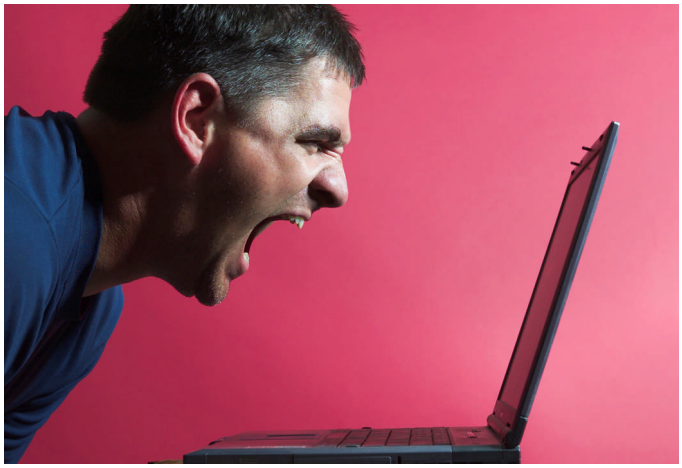
- If you are sending a hardcopy form to CBIS for data entry, WRITE LEGIBLY and ensure that all necessary fields are completed.
- Some providers have expressed concern because they are not able to bill for a service recently provided. It is important that providers understand that they cannot bill for anything that has not already been authorized. If the ISC or PSC has not submitted (or entered online) a summary form authorizing services, the provider will not be able to bill until they do. There is nothing that CBIS or Central Office can do in a situation like this. It will be necessary to follow-up directly with the ISC or PSC.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

CBIS/CIMS Updates (cont'd)

(Continued from Page 1)



- If you are having problems with your CIMS User ID or Password, you may contact Central Office (502/564-3756) and we will work with you to correct the problem.
- If you receive an error message in CIMS telling you that you cannot re-enter the child's record for 1 month, please forward the data you are trying to enter to CBIS or to Central Office. Either CBIS data entry staff or Central Office staff can help you enter the data. FYI, the fax number at Central Office is currently 502/564-8003.
- Finally, I had forwarded this message before, but I am forwarding again in the hopes that providers who batch bill using Excel spreadsheets will take notice: **Follow the electronic layout specifications precisely.** I know you … you're early childhood folks. You like things pretty and organized and, well, family/user-friendly. Unfortunately, while that trait suits you all very well for your chosen career, it tends to mess up your electronic claims processing. It is important to understand that when you try to make your spreadsheet pretty or easier to read by adding dollar signs, reformatting columns as "currency" or "accounting", putting dashes or periods in the CBIS ID (rather than numbers only), or putting in pretty headers or blank lines, you cause your CBIS data entry staff to have a stroke. They don't care how pretty it is. They care that it's in the format that they need it in. If it's not, they have to jump through a number of hoops to reformat your file … taking up precious time that would be better spent processing the claims of the providers behind you in line. If you think you might be guilty of trying to win the "prettiest claim" contest, please take a few moments to review the electronic layout specifications at the following link: http://cbis.louisville.edu/electronbill.htm/electronicbilling2.htm . I have asked Kimberly Joseph at CBIS to begin forwarding the names of guilty parties to Central Office for personal follow-up. Should the electronic layout specifications not be followed, there may soon come a time when the file will simply be returned unprocessed. Please help us help you and follow the electronic specifications precisely.

First Steps Regional Needs Assessment

It's time once again to make your voice heard. The annual First Steps Regional Needs Assessment is now available!! You can access the Regional Needs Assessment survey from the First Steps website (fs.chfs.ky.gov). On the homepage scroll down to NEW INFORMATION and click on the link to the 2008 First Steps Regional Needs Assessment.

Be On the Lookout For ...

Final Evaluation, Assessment and IFSP Development policies should be available next week. Final work on the corresponding Regulation changes were wrapped up this week. Information about the policies has been shared over the previous year, but most recently in the July 25, 2008 First Steps Newsletter (beginning on page 5). Go back and check that out for more information.

Kentucky Autism Training Center
College of Education and Human Development
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Presents:

FALL WORKSHOP SERIES 2008

Name_____

☐ **Family Member** ☐ **Para Professional** ☐ **Full Time Student**

☐ **Professional/Educator** ☐ **Related Service Provider**

School/Organization_____

Address_____

City, State_____

Zip_____ **E-mail Address**_____

Telephone Home (_____) _____**Work (_____)** _____

Fax: _____ **County:** _____

Session Attending (Refer to page two) _____

Registration Fee for all participants is $50.00

I am paying by:

☐ **Check#**_____ **Payable to "KATC"**

☐ **Purchase Order #**_____ **(Must enclose P.O.)**

(If paying with P.O., you may fax registration and P.O. to 502-852-7148, attn: Emily Kirkham)

☐ **Credit Card: Visa or MasterCard**

(After we receive your form you will be contacted by our unit business manager for your card information.)

Send and address completed registration to the mailing address below:

Becki Newton
Assistant to the Dean
College of Education & Human Development
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

(This is an on campus mailing address a street number is not necessary.)

SESSION LOCATIONS

September 9th
General Butler State Resort Park
Carrollton, KY

October 22nd
Historic Boone Tavern
Berea, KY

October 29th
Douglas Community Center
Louisville, KY

November 5th

Proof of Attendance will be provided to all participants. Educators should contact their local board of Education regarding professional development approval.

Scholarships for Family Members and Para Professionals are available. Please contact the KATC to request an application.

For questions regarding the fall workshop series please contact Emily Kirkham at 502-852-3597 or elhatc02@louisville.edu

Training Schedule for All Locations:

8:00am – 8:30am: Registration

8:30am – 11:45am: Morning Session

11:45am -1:00pm: LUNCH

1:00 - 4:30: Afternoon Session

Please refer to page two of the registration form for session descriptions.

August 15, 2008

fs.chfs.ky.gov

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

New Evaluation, Assessment and IFSP Development Policies to Take Effect October 1, 2008

The long anticipated policies addressing Kentucky's need to systematically capture and report child progress data have been finalized and are (or very soon will be) available for review on the First Steps website (fs.chfs.ky.gov). The policies will take effect **October 1, 2008**.

You may recall that draft Evaluation, Assessment and IFSP Development policies were posted for public review and comment in July, 2007 and again on January 11, 2008. All comments received were reviewed and the policies were adjusted when and as possible.

Key policy changes were summarized in the July 25, 2008 First Steps newsletter. Implementation has been delayed due to the need to reflect necessary changes in regulation. Two necessary changes that must be reflected in regulation are the elimination of the Developmental Status Scale (DSS) and an increase in the PLE rate from $225 to $270.

First Steps regulations will also be adjusted to reflect new federal language regarding the identification of and service to eligible infants and toddlers who are homeless and to remove language regarding the assessment of the highest out of pocket Family Share payment amount for families who refuse to apply for Medicaid or KCHIP. While the latter has not been in practice, it has been in regulation and the program has been required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to have the language removed.

Again, these policies will take effect **October 1, 2008**. The policies will be mailed in hardcopy to providers and other stakeholders in order to provide appropriate notice of program policy changes. However, the policies will be available on the First Steps website as early as today (and no later than early next week) for your review.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your regional TA Team.

TOTS Update

In preparation for the start of TOTS training, Central Office staff spent some time this week visiting with Point of Entry staff, service coordinators and providers in Tennessee. You may recall that the TOTS system is fashioned after the system designed for Tennessee's early intervention program. So, we thought it would be valuable to talk with some Tennessee system users to find out how the data and billing system changed their work, how they felt about the change and what obstacles, if any, they encountered.

Technology-assisted Observation and Teaming Support system

Tennessee service coordinators said that the data system has increased their communication with IFSP team members and they felt like the children they were serving were getting better services because the team was better able to communicate.

(Continued on Page 2)

Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

CBIS/CIMS Updates

Most of you have probably had an opportunity to talk with Kimberly Joseph at CBIS. Well, good news—Kimberly is still there and has been so very helpful with the transition of customer service and data entry activities to Central Office.

Central Office staff are working closely with Kimberly to make sure we understand the ins and outs of data entry and claims processing. Where Kimberly has known you all for a long time, we are only just getting to know your agencies and your staff. You can help us process your paperwork in a timely manner by taking a few precautions:

- Write legibly. CBIS staff were very good at putting themselves in your shoes and understanding what you meant to write. We aren't there yet.
- Fill out forms completely. Again, CBIS staff were very good at anticipating your needs. Central Office staff just can't do that yet.
- Make sure we can read the service coordinator name and agency at the bottom of the form.

TOTS Update (cont'd)

(Continued from Page 1)

Tennessee service providers also expressed pleasure with the enhanced communication, but strongly encouraged mandatory provider training.

Tennessee's Director of Early Childhood Programs at the Tennessee Department of Education, who oversaw the implementation of the Tennessee Early Intervention Data System (TEIDS) had this to say, " You all have done some great upgrades and expansions to the data system. In fact, we want to add some of the details you all have included for financial and health screens."

All in all, we were very pleased with the meeting with the Tennessee users. As Part C Programs, we plan to continue to collaborate with each other, knowing that we will each learn lessons along the way and will benefit from sharing those lessons learned.

Using Tax Credits to Promote High Quality Early Care and Education Services

by Louise Stoney and Anne Mitchell

Tax credits have been used in a variety of policy areas to encourage increased investments in programs seen as "social goods," such as clean energy and charitable donations. This paper explores financing strategies for early childhood programs by examining whether carefully crafted individual or business tax credits/deductions could 1) help finance early care and education; 2) spur additional private investment; and 3) create incentives for families to use, and early childhood program to offer, high-quality services. The researchers examine a range of tax incentives that have been used in other fields and could serve as models for early care and education finance, such as consumer/individual tax credits and deductions; occupational tax credits and deductions; and investment tax credits, deductions and abatements for firms. The findings suggest several recommendations about how to best structure and use tax credits. Among the key points: cost and stability of credits are critical; tax credits must be well linked to high quality "products," in this case early childhood programs; if high quality programs are desired, parents must have ways to distinguish them, thereby making public education about quality important; and, for the tax credits to be effective, administration should be simple and infrastructure in place. Download at http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/200712_StoneyMitchellpaper.pdf

First Steps Regional Needs Assessment

It's time once again to make your voice heard. The annual First Steps Regional Needs Assessment is now available!! You can access the Regional Needs Assessment survey from the First Steps website (fs.chfs.ky.gov). On the homepage scroll down to NEW INFORMATION and click on the link to the 2008 First Steps Regional Needs Assessment.

Celebrity Fundraiser to Benefit State Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)

Thursday's Child Night with the Stars is August 21st

Several Kentucky celebrities from the genres of sports, music and media will help raise funds and awareness of state adoption at a celebration later this month.

Thursday's Child Night with the Stars will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 1375 S. Broadway in Lexington. The fundraiser is sponsored by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Thursday's Child, a nonprofit group that helps promote adoption.

Guests can meet and mingle with these celebrities scheduled to attend the event:

- Rodger Bingham -- "Kentucky Joe" from the reality television series "Survivor"
- J.D. Crowe -- legendary Bluegrass musician
- Merlene Davis -- Lexington Herald-Leader columnist and adoptive parent
- Farah Fath -- star of "One Life to Live"
- Jack Pattie -- WVLK radio personality and event emcee
- Jared Prickett -- member of the University of Kentucky's 1996 national championship men's basketball team
- Ian Rosser -- current foster child and UK student/comedian who performs a routine on life in foster care

Tickets are $60 and can be purchased from these locations:

- CHFS' Adoption Services Branch -- Contact Mike Grimes, 275 E. Main St., 3C-E, Frankfort, KY 40621; Phone: (502) 564-2147.
- Adoption Support for Kentucky (ASK) - Contact Carrie Saunders, Director, University of Kentucky Training Resource Center, 1 Quality St., Suite 700, Lexington, KY 40507; Phone: (859) 257-3196.
- Fayette County Department for Community Based Services/Recruitment and Certification Team – Contact Tim Hodge, 1165 Centre Parkway, Suite 180, Lexington, KY 40517; Phone: (859) 245-6834.
- On site at the event

Cost includes dinner, entertainment and a silent auction. For each ticket purchased, $30 is tax deductible, and Thursday's Child will provide confirmation of each donation.

Thursday's Child supports CHFS' Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) and sponsors several activities for Kentucky's foster children, including therapeutic horseback riding, summer camp, holiday parties and athletic opportunities. Thursday's Child also coordinates adoption recruitment events and works diligently to find forever families for Kentucky's waiting children.

More than 500 children in the state foster care system are waiting for adoptive homes.

For more information about adoption and foster care, call SNAP at (800) 928-4303. Log on to the SNAP home page at http://chfs.ky.gov/snap.

August 22, 2008

fs.chfs.ky.gov

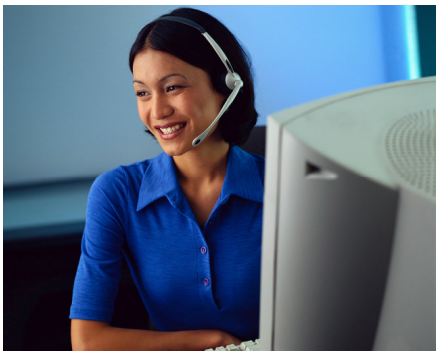
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

Central Office Announces New Toll-Free Line and E-Mail Address

Central Office has set up a toll-free phone number and a dedicated e-mail account to assist Points of Entry, service coordinators, providers, parents and other stakeholders in accessing Central Office staff. The toll-free number is 877-41STEPS (877-417-8377) and the e-mail address is chfs.firststeps@ky.gov . (NOTE, this should not be confused with the First Steps web address, which remains: fs.chfs.ky.gov)

Increased access to Central Office has been a priority for the program for some time now. The need increased when CBIS deferred customer service calls to Central Office a few weeks ago due to staffing shortages. Since that time, service coordinators and providers have been contacting Central Office on their own dime, so to speak, to address service authorization and billing issues.



Both the toll-free line and the dedicated e-mail account are operational and stakeholders may begin using them immediately.

877-41STEPS

chfs.firststeps@ky.gov

TOTS Update

Last week we began, and this week we continued, training POE staff, service coordinators and providers in the Barren River District. The Barren River District is scheduled to begin testing the TOTS system on September 1, 2008.

A goal in the testing process is to have enough data to make the testing useful, but not too much data as to exhaust the testers and make the testing a frustrating process. For this reason, child records will be semi-randomly selected for TOTS testing.

When selecting child records for testing, Central Office will work to assure that every service coordinator and provider in the District has at least one record and, preferably, up to five child records on their TOTS caseload so that a wide array of scenarios can be thoroughly tested before the system goes live later this year.

We're very excited to get this process underway and looking forward to sharing the progress as it's made.

Technology-assisted Observation and Teaming Support system

Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

CBIS/CIMS Updates

CBIS google group message recipients should have received the following information from CBIS earlier this week:

1. ALL dates entered on CIMS must be in mm/dd/yyyy format. Some of you have been getting generic error messages that do not direct you to this problem. As we have come across the returned forms, the way the date was entered was the problem. If you have a bill or summary sheet date for 08/01/2008 - this is how the date must be entered - 08/01/2008. This is stated on CIMS in most places where a date is requested.

   We have been seeing dates entered as 08-01-08, 8-1-08, 08012008, 08-01-2008. All of these other date formats are wrong as far as CIMS is concerned, and will create an error message on CIMS when you try to enter your bill or summary sheet.

2. Do not discharge a child until you have entered all information regarding that child. So if you still have an amendment form or demographic form to enter on-line, do those first. Then you can discharge the child. If you enter the discharge form first, then try to enter the other form(s), you will receive the message that the child has already been discharged. And you will be unable to enter anything else for this child. Then the traditional paper forms will have to be sent into CBIS.

3. For providers who are submitting their bills via CIMS - Make sure you are selecting the correct discipline and service codes. We have been getting quite a few resubmittals of bills that all had the default service code X0014A submitted. Agencies with more than one discipline need to take extra care in making sure that both the discipline code and service code are correct. Review what's on the screen before you hit the final "Submit" or "Enter".

4. For Coordinators who are entering summary sheets, please make sure you are entering the providers' correct ID number and discipline. We have been seeing issues where a provider cannot bill for a child, but the coordinator swears the information was entered several days ago on-line. Let's say the provider's id was 330. The coordinator entered the provider's id into CIMS as 3330. So the coordinator did enter a plan on-line, but provider 330 will still not be able to enter bills for that child because 3330 was the approved provider number. Once you type in the provider's id number, CIMS populates the name field and gives you that agency's name. If it is incorrect, you can correct the id before hitting the "submit" or "enter" button.

5. For those PSCs out there who are transferring children to a new PSC, if you haven't noticed, you can add/change the PSC via CIMS. There is a button for change PSC Only. You will still need to delete yourself on a paper form and mail it into CBIS.

6. If you are filling out a demographic form for a child, and you indicate that the child is Medicaid Eligible, then you check the box indicating that you are not filling out the family income because the child id medicaid eligible. You will get an error message if you do not have a 0 in this box. The IFSP Meeting/Review form will already have the 0 in the box for you, but on the demographic form, you must enter the 0 in the Adjusted Income box.

If you have CIMS issues, please e-mail CBIS at: cbis@louisville.edu

Carol Schroeder

2008 Marge Allen Spirit Award Winner

Congratulations to Carol Schroeder, the 2008 Marge Allen Award winner. Carol is the TIP Coordinator at the University of Kentucky. Carol worked as the First Steps Technical Assistant for UK for 10 years. Carol continues to work to support early intervention through training, curriculum development and instruction to prepare new professionals who will be working with young children and their families.

The Marge Allen Award was presented to Carol by Cindy Holms, the 2007 Marge Allen Spirit Award recipient, and by Marge Allen herself.

Teresa Ryan

2008 Jim Henson Service Award Winner

Congratulations to **Teresa Ryan**, the 2008 Jim Henson Service Award winner. Teresa has worked with children in Kentucky for 24 years as a speech-language pathologist and now a Primary Level Evaluator. Teresa enjoys working with families whose children are deaf or hard of hearing and is fluent in sign language. Teresa participates on the ICC via the Evaluation Subcommittee and is always willing to provide valuable feedback and support to program initiatives. The First Steps program is lucky to have her!

Teresa is pictured here with her family at the Infant Toddler Institute.

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late ...

It's time once again to make your voice heard. The annual First Steps Regional Needs Assessment is now available!! You can access the Regional Needs Assessment survey from the First Steps website (fs.chfs.ky.gov). On the homepage scroll down to NEW INFORMATION and click on the link to the 2008 First Steps Regional Needs Assessment.

So far only 30 stakeholders have completed the Needs Assessment and voted for their favorite First Steps slogan in the Slogan Contest. Don't wait until it's too late. Fill it out now!

After Abuse: Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers

By law each state is required to ensure that all substantiated cases of maltreated infants and toddlers are referred to Part C early intervention services. In reality, many children may not be receiving the child development services they need. Read the full article, *After Abuse: Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers* at the following link: http://www.fpg.unc.edu/%7Esnapshots/Snap54.pdf?email=

Registration for HELP Training Available on TRAIN

Many of you have been watching and waiting for HELP registration to open on TRAIN. You can now register using the following course numbers. If you don't see them listed on Friday afternoon they will definitely be available for registration on TRAIN by Monday.

First Steps Assessment Training on the Hawaii Early learning Profile (HELP)-1014457-September 11, 2008-Berea

First Steps Assessment Training on the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP)-1014458 - September 11, 2008-Lexington

First Steps Assessment Training on the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP)-1014455 - September 15, 2008-West Liberty

First Steps Assessment Training on the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP)-1014456 - September 26, 2008-Paducah

August 29, 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FIRST STEPS
KENTUCKY'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

TOTS Update

TOTS training is underway and whether you have already attended or not this question will come up; How will I know if a child has been added to my caseload once we begin using TOTS? A great thing about TOTS is that it's a tool that replaces some of the paperwork we complete now and enhances our ability to communicate with the whole team to give us a better picture of the child and family but it doesn't necessarily change the way we do business. You will still be contacted by the Service Coordinator or if you are a Service Coordinator you will still contact a provider prior to adding a child to their caseload.

Technology-assisted Observation and Teaming Support system

Training Registration Note: Be sure you are following TOTS registration instructions carefully. If your registration says "Pending" keep clicking "Next" until you see the button that says "Complete Registration." Proper registration will be listed as "In Process".

Don't choose the "Save and Finish Later" button. Choosing the Save and Finish Later button will result in an incomplete registration. That means you will not be registered for the training. This is more important than usual since there are specific numbers of computers in each training lab.

When you want to print a TOTS training certificate, simply visit the My Learning box on the TRAIN homepage and mark the session as complete, then mark the conference as complete, complete the evaluation and your certificate will be available.

Kentucky Chosen For Autism Training Partnership

News Release 08-062 - Kentucky Chosen for Autism Training Partnership

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

No. 08-062

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2008

CONTACT: Lisa Y. Gross

Office - (502) 564-2015
Cellular - (502) 330-5063

lisa.gross@education.ky.gov

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky has been selected by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders to be one of only three states to receive technical assistance related to autism, which affects more than 2,300 school-aged children statewide.

Of nine grant applications nationwide, Kentucky, Michigan and Minnesota were selected to receive the assistance.

Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC), located at the University of Louisville, partnered on the grant application. KDE and KATC will work in collaboration with the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the M.I.N.D. Institute at the University of California Davis Medical School to implement the two-year project. KDE and KATC also will partner with the statewide network of Special Education Cooperatives and Early Childhood Regional Training Centers, Kentucky's Infant-Toddler Program (First Steps), the Parent Training and Information Network (KY-SPIN), the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities, institutions of higher education and many other state partners.

The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders will provide professional development and technical assistance to help Kentucky promote implementation of evidence-based practices for early identification, intervention and education for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). These practices should produce the best possible outcomes for families and students with ASD, spanning the age range from infancy to early adulthood (21 years). In addition, the center will help Kentucky establish model sites demonstrating evidence-based practices for ASD and in evaluating and measuring child, family, practitioner and system-level outcomes.

The purposes of the two-year project, which will begin in Kentucky in January 2009, are to:

- increase the number of highly qualified personnel (particularly teachers and practitioners) serving children and youth with ASD in Kentucky
- establish a sustainable system of professional development in evidence-based practices in ASD

provide technical assistance support for early childhood practitioners, educational leaders, teachers and school-based personnel

Based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and other governmental agencies, autism is growing at the rate of ten to 17 percent per year. At this rate, autism could reach 4,000,000 Americans in the next decade. Each individual with autism accrues about $3.2 million in costs to society over his or her lifetime, with lost productivity and adult care being the most expensive components, according to a report in the April 2008 issue of *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.

The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders operates under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

The Kentucky Autism Training Center is housed in the University of Louisville College of Education and Human Development. The center's mission is to enhance supports for persons with autism by providing information and technical assistance to families and service providers across Kentucky.

What about the Regional Needs Assessment?

Numbers of Responses by District

Barren River-11
Big Sandy-5
Bluegrass-14
Buffalo Trace-5
Lincoln Trail-9
Purchase-9
Cumberland Valley-9
FIVCO-6
Gateway-1
Green River-8
NorthKY-18
Green River-8
KY River-3
KIPDA-16
Lake Cumberland-9
Pennyrile-2

Don't forget that the Needs Assessment includes a Slogan Contest. The slogan question is the last question...be sure to vote!

Your feedback matters! Please take a few minutes to complete the First Steps 2008 Annual Regional Needs Assessment at the link below:

Click Here to take survey

Many of you received the post card above reminding you to register for TOTS training, complete the Regional Needs Assessment (with slogan contest), and to register for the Infant Toddler Institute. We had some great sessions at the institute this year. If you weren't able to attend we hope to see you there next year!